

20 October 1953

General Robert Cutler  
Room 376  
Executive Office Building

Dear Bobby:

At yesterday's meeting you mentioned receiving a letter from a member of the Board highly critical of the final Solarium paper. As a partial antidote, I am writing this.

When I got home last evening, one [redacted] dinner guest, appeared to be in an extraordinarily benign frame of mind, so I inquired as to the reasons for his general air of satisfaction and was told: "I have just been reading an NSC paper which is so far superior to anything I have ever seen emanate from the [redacted] before that I have a new feeling of confidence in the powers that be and the future of the country." To my question, "What paper?" he replied, "162."

[redacted] as you well know, is not easy to please either in matters of policy judgment or questions of technical draftsmanship.

In all seriousness, it is difficult for me to take a detached view of the paper, but to the extent I can, I honestly believe it is well worth all the effort and heat that went into it. It sticks to the point, grapples with the really significant questions and is singularly lacking in boiler plate phraseology. With somewhat over 95 per cent of it, I am in whole-hearted agreement. As to the relatively few sections which I would handle differently, I fully recognize that the final version represents a true corporate view.

I cannot help but congratulate myself on being the one who first recommended that [redacted] be brought down to fill his present role.

With many thanks for your consideration of my views, especially when they concerned matters far removed from intelligence, and with hopes for many more tough sessions as we supplement 162 with special area policy papers,

Sincerely,

DDI/RAJr.:jm

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Robert Amory, Jr.  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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